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CIA recruiters to return in fall

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BOULDER — Although the Central Intelligence Agency does not plan to be on the University of Colorado campus for recruiting this spring, a CIA recruiter said today the agency plans to be back in the fall.

The CIA announced this week it will reduce on-campus recruiting in the state as a result of the Gramm-Rudman Act. The act, which mandates deep budget cuts in government operations, became law in January and calls for a balanced federal budget by 1991.

While the CIA says the budget ax has hampered on-campus recruiting, an attorney representing several people arrested during anti-CIA protests at CU said voracious opposition by citizens and students has hampered the CIA. But Tom White, regional recuiter for the CIA, has a different view.

"I have 30 campuses in an 11-state region I usually visit each spring and fall," White said today in a telephone interview. "I had four people working with me last year, but with the Gramm-Rudman Act our agency has to cut expenses like all other government agencies. I was told I could not use those four people, so at the moment I am left by myself."

However, George Johnson, who represents the CIA protesters, sees it differently. "The CIA has never worried about money, the truth or the law," Johnson said today. "They have made a political calculation and have decided now is not the time to recruit at CU." Johnson speculated CU officials may have put pressure on the agency to cool tensions between students and the CIA. "It is an embarassment for the university to have thugs on campus," Johnson said of the recruiters.

Johnson represents four people arrested on trespassing and unlawful conduct charges. He said he plans to carry the matter through the courts to draw publicity to alleged CIA atrocities in Central America. Johnson said the CIA announcement will not affect his cases. "I hope the district attorney will give us a chance to go to trial so we can prove the brutal things the CIA does," Johnson said.

Despite Johnson's claims, White said the CIA will still recruit students. However, White plans to visit out-of-state schools in the spring and return to Colorado next fall. "Students can funnel their resumes to our Denver office and I can schedule interviews with them," White said of locals interested in a CIA career. "That will free me to hit out-of-state schools; that is the philosophy. But I will be back to CU in the fall."

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